

*William J. Clinton Library & Museum **News Release***

1200 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201

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William J. Clinton Presidential Library to Host National Issues Forum

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library, in collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), will host a series of discussions on important public policy issues between Labor Day and Election Day this fall during the height of the presidential election campaign.

Forums will be held:

- On September 22 at the Clinton Presidential Library on the issue of **Coping with the Cost of Health Care: How Do We Pay for What We Need?**
- On October 6 at the Clinton School of Public Service on the issue of **Too Many Children Left Behind: How Can We Close the Achievement Gap?**
- On October 20 at the Clinton Presidential Library on the issue of **The Energy Problem: Choice for an Uncertain Future.**

All forums are free and begin at 6:00 p.m.

All 12 Presidential Libraries, in communities across the country, are participating in this initiative. Each of the libraries will host a series of three forums. Individual libraries will choose from a list of issues – ranging from immigration, the federal debt, education, and energy.

“Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education,” Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, said. “Presidential Libraries are public places and it is appropriate for citizens to come together there to deliberate over major public policy issues in the midst of a presidential campaign.” However, the goal should be hosting discussions which are balanced, civil in tone and fair-minded.

“Participants in a forum,” NIFI Chairman William Winter, said, “deliberate with one another – eye-to-eye, face-to-face, exploring options, weighing others’ views, considering the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. In a democracy, citizens have a responsibility to make choices about how to solve problems and forums help enrich participants’ thinking on public issues. By offering citizens a framework for deliberative forums, NIFI helps the public take an active role in acting on public issues.

The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries and Museums, like their holdings, belong to the American people. They promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience, preserving and providing access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

To make your reservations, contact Kathleen Pate at (501)244-2704 or kathleen.pate@nara.gov. For information about Presidential Libraries visit www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/ or www.clintonlibrary.gov.

The Clinton Presidential Library is one of twelve Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

